

**Sec 3/1**

When Thomas Edison was first mentioned to me, the first thing that came to my mind was, "The inventor of light bulbs!" It was a simple fact that most of my friends knew. However, how many of us understood the key to his success? In fact, he actually failed countless times in his experiments, but he never gave up. He did not strive for perfection but learnt from his mistakes. Despite the difficulties, he persevered, and in the end, he produced extraordinary results. Similarly, in life, I believe that the road before me is not always smooth. There may be times when I will trip over rocks and fall down. To stand up again and continue the journey, I believe perseverance is the strength I need.

I have always believed in the quote, "When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on" by Franklin D. Roosevelt. When I was in Primary 6, the crucial year of my primary school life, I faced a problem - I was not performing well in Science. No matter how hard I studied, I could not score well. It was an obstacle deterring me from reaching my goal of obtaining a relatively good PSLE score. At that time, I felt extremely disheartened. I thought I had reached the limit of my ability and just felt like giving up. All I wanted to do was to hide in one corner and let nature take its course.

However, I realized at that moment that "Life's challenges are not out to make things difficult for us, they are meant to prepare us for the longer journey down the road." I decided to pick myself up and persevere. I began to work doubly hard for Science despite all the difficulties I experienced. I was determined to achieve my goal. Gradually, I could see the improvement and it was even more evident after I had received my PSLE results – I scored an A\* for Science!

No words could describe my satisfaction when I knew that my perseverance had paid off. From then on, 'perseverance' has become the closest friend who accompanies me when I face challenges and who never leaves me in the lurch.

Just recently last year, the workload became rather heavy for me, hence I had to spend many nights burning the midnight oil just to complete my work. Honestly, there were instances when I felt like giving up as I struggled through my work. I had a lack of time, a lack of sleep and a lack of motivation to carry on.

Just when I thought I could not continue anymore, I remembered a quote from Newt Gingrich, "Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did." With this, I recalled the incident a few years ago and willed myself to persevere through my work. After all, this would eventually benefit me in my studies.

Perseverance is the strength which propels me forward and never backward. When I fall down in life, it helps me up so that I can continue my journey. I believe in perseverance, do you?